

5/017/048

July 21, 2005

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RECEIVED
JUL 26 2005
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING
7/26

Dear Ms. Wright,

My name is Dave Siminatis and I live in Hatch, Utah. Although this letter comes under my signature, I feel fairly safe in saying I'm writing you on behalf of all us living in this area that have been so negatively affected by a strip mining operation that began earlier this summer.

With complete surprise, we found huge earth moving equipment ripping away the hillside right behind many of our homes. The diesel engines from the heavy equipment and rock crushing machines roared around the clock. When nighttime fell, the once dark, quiet skies were brightly illuminated by huge Halogen lights placed in the newly created pit and the constant beeping noise of the reverse gear warning signal on the earthmovers made it so many residents couldn't even have their windows open at night.

The material (Travertine) being mined has created extreme levels of dust in our area. The air quality we enjoyed has changed. Although a periodic water truck gave the appearance of an attempt at dust control, the truck was no match for the five acres of silt and gravel that's now exposed.

The dynamite blasting rocked many of our homes. I live in a community called Bonanza Estates and our water tank sits probably less than one half mile away from the blasting and we worry what affect this blasting might have on our tank and our underground water source.

We wonder too what affect the open pit, with its proximity to natural drain runs, might have on the Sevier River. Any drainage from that hillside from heavy rain could only runoff into the Sevier River.

Several weeks ago, as the daytime temperatures soared to the 90 degree mark, Burningham Enterprises (Western Rock) packed up their equipment and left nothing but a huge five-acre crater, 60 - 80 feet tall mountains of white stone and

silt and a sweltering dust bowl. Someone needs to take responsibility for that eyesore and the dust it generates.

We know the equipment and non-stop noise will be back in the fall. The existing permit expires at the end of February 2006 and suspicions are, that Burningham will try to ruin the entire mountainside by obtaining an even larger (acreage) mining permit from your Agency. An increase in acreage will only worsen the conditions we're now dealing with.

Speaking for myself, had there been a mining pit right over the hill from where I live, I would have never bought this house. I'm sure my neighbors feel likewise. To allow an operation of this sort to move into our community, affect the lifestyle we came here for in the first place, and to permit such an environmentally unfriendly operation to exist just isn't right.

My neighbors and I are pleading with you to not allow any additional mining in our backyards. If circumstances are such that the potential of noise, water and air pollution are not sufficient to deny any further permits, there has to be stricter guidelines to protect the residents, our property and the "scenic" Highway 89 this strip mine sits on. We'd welcome a visit by your Agency so you can see this mine first-hand.

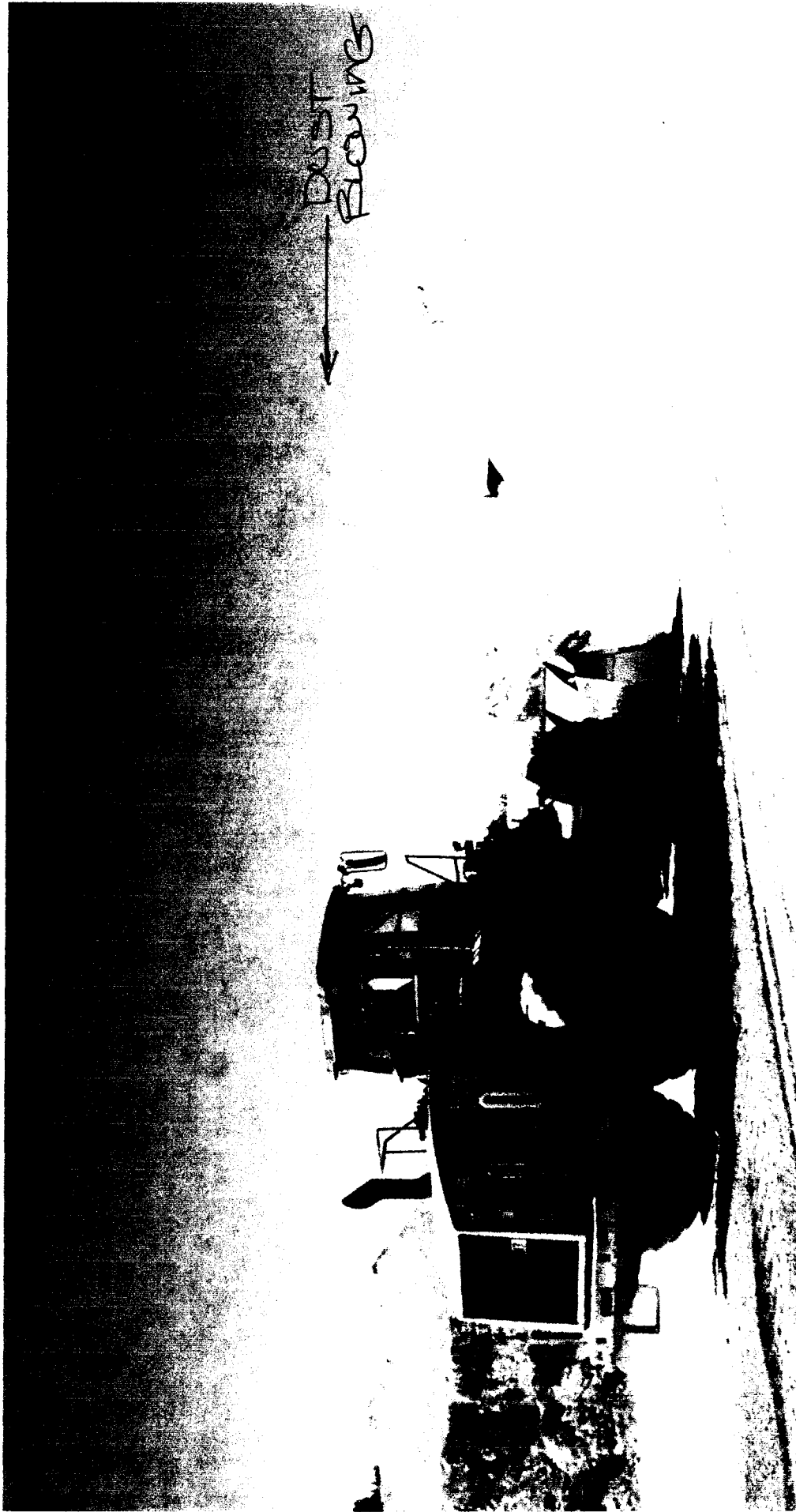
I've said my piece. I just hope you might place yourself in our shoes and think how you would feel, as a resident and homeowner, if someone opened a strip mine right down the street from where you live.

Thank you for hearing me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Siminatis", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dave Siminatis
PO Box 591
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(435) 735-4224

Cc: Darren Haddock
Tom Munson
John Blake, SITLA
Kevin Carter, SITLA
Jess Dean, Div. Air Quality
Garfield County Planning Commissioners



DUST
BLOWING

NOTE THE TIRE TRACKS
IN THE SOFT SAND (DUST)

DOVE
PTT #ND
COMED



6/13/05

TRY TO SEE ALL
THE DUST THE TRUCKS
GENERATE



